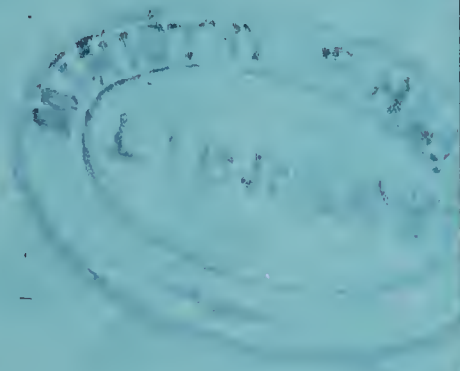


HEALTH
ANTI SEPTIC
CR. 5

BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1950

BY

JAMES LIVINGSTONE HUNTER

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

JAMES L. HUNTER, Medical Officer of Health.
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

R. E. FLETCHER, Deputy Medical Officer of Health
M.B., Ch.B.

§*RICHARD JAMES Chief Sanitary Inspector.

§*PATRICK ELDON Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

*CHARLES E. PEARSON ... Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Mrs. M. ROBINSON ... Chief Clerk.
(Resigned May. 1951).

Miss I. BRIGGS Junior Clerk.
(Resigned December. 1950).

Miss E. NICHOLSON ... Chief Clerk.
(Appointed July. 1951).

Miss E. PRICE Junior Clerk.
(Appointed January. 1951).

* Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board

§ Certificate of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.).

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN S. WALKER.

THE MAYOR (Councillor M. P. Nilsson).

Councillor J. ASKEW.

„ E. BARRACLOUGH.

„ A. V. CATTRELL.

„ T. T. GRAHAM.

„ J. LANCASTER.

„ Mrs. B. O. McKEATING.

„ H. H. McMANUS.

„ J. McD. MOORE.

„ Mrs. M. A. SMITH.

„ Mrs. A. B. THOMAS.

„ A. YOUNG.

TOWN HALL,

WORKINGTON,

27th July, 1951.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
THE ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my first Annual Report, as your Medical Officer, for 1950.

The post of Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer was held by Dr. R. W. Macpherson until his retirement on 30th June, 1950. The post is now held by me as a joint or mixed appointment—for five-elevenths by time in respect of the Borough and six-elevenths in respect of my employment as Divisional Medical Officer, West Cumberland, by the Local Authority, the Cumberland County Council.

The form of the report and the presentation of the statistics for the year retain the main features of recent Annual Reports.

The statistics for the year 1950 (which are found in the following text and tables) show some improvements on 1949 and no marked deteriorations, but it should always be borne in mind that vital statistics for a comparatively small community, such as is Workington, do show bigger variations year by year than those of larger groupings of people. Even so, it is pleasing to note that the Infantile Mortality Rate has dropped from 47.7 in 1949 to 37.1 in 1950: this compares with a rate of 29.8 for the whole of England and Wales and with a rate of 35 for the administrative County of Cumberland.

The Birth Rate dropped by 0.5 from 18.1 in 1949 to 17.6; while the general Death Rate showed a decrease of 0.3 from 13.0 to 12.7.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Of the 369 people who died in 1950 in Workington 106 or 56 per cent. attained the age of 65 or over and of the 106 a half attained the age of 75 or over.

Cancer accounted for 45 or 12 per cent. of the total deaths: diseases of the heart and circulatory system were responsible for 176 (or 47 per cent.).

There was no heavy incidence of notifiable disease. There were, however, five cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). No deaths occurred from the disease.

Housing still remains the chief problem in the town both for residents unfortunately placed and for the Corporation. Only sixty houses were completed during the year—41 by the Corporation and 19 by private builders. This makes little practical progress towards the solution of the re-housing of families in some 2,000 sub-standard dwellings and of a large number of young couples living in rooms. It is to be hoped that the laying of the Moor-close Sewer will be accomplished in the minimum time and so remove what would appear to be the main delaying factor in the building of a number of houses in proportion to the size of the town and its immediate needs.

During the year the Council made the decision to transfer the functions of Refuse Collection and Disposal from the Surveying and Engineering Department to the Public Health Department. The Council further decided, after an inspection of the methods used by the Corporation of Bradford, to adopt the system of Controlled Tip-ping.

I wish to record here my appreciation and thanks to the cordial reception I received from members of the Council and Officials on assuming the post of Medical Officer and I have to thank especially the members of the Public Health Staff, who have helped me so much in taking over my new responsibilities.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. HUNTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1.—*General.*

Area of Borough in acres	5,641
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate of Residents—mid-year 1950)	29,050
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books at end of 1950	8,124
Rateable Value	£145,000
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£550

The main industries of the town are the heavy ones of Iron and Steel and Coal Mining but the lighter industries are also represented in cloth, wool and rayon making, light engineering, making of electrical equipment, tanning and brewing. The port is mainly concerned with the import of iron ore. There are 21 milk-producing farms in the Borough.

2.—*Vital Statistics.*

Population	29,050
------------------	--------

This shows an increase of 150 on the figure for 1949.

Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births:—			
Legitimate	232	262	494
Illegitimate	10	8	18
	—	—	—
Total ...	242	270	512
	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population	17.6
--	------

Still Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	6	5	11
	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 Total Births	21
-----------------------------------	----

Deaths.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths (all ages)	206	163	369
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population			12.7
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 Population .			13.2
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births			37
Legitimate Infants per 1,000			
Legitimate Live Births			38
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000			
Illegitimate Live Births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			45
Measles (all ages)			Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil

3.—*Notes and Comparisons on Vital Statistics.**Births.*

Live Birth Rate :—

Workington	17.6
England and Wales	15.8
126 Great Towns	17.6
148 Smaller Towns	16.7
(Population 25,000—50,000)	
London Administrative County	17.8
County of Cumberland	17.6

There was a decrease of 13 births (legitimate) as compared to 1949, and one less illegitimate. The Birth Rate was 0.5 lower than last year.

Death Rate :—

Workington	12.7
England and Wales	11.6
126 Great Towns	12.3
148 Smaller Towns	11.6
London Administrative County	11.8
County of Cumberland	12.6

The number of deaths in Workington was seven less than in 1949, and the Death Rate was 0.3 less, but higher than the Rate for England and Wales by 1.1.

The chief causes of Deaths were Diseases of the Heart and Circulation 178, Cancer 45, Bronchitis and Pneumonia 24 and Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The two tables which follow show the age at death of all cases, and the cause of death during the year:—

Age Groups	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—75	Over 75	Total
Males	14	1		2			1			6	10	23	30	61	58	206
Females	5			1		1		2	2	1	9	6	29	41	66	163
Total	19	1		3		1	1	2	2	7	19	29	59	102	124	369

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS IN WORKINGTON
BOROUGH FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	5	12
Tuberculosis, other forms	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	8	6	14
do. lung, bronchus	4	—	4
do. breast	—	3	3
do. uterus	—	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	7	20
Leukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular diseases of nervous system	31	24	55
Coronary disease, angina	23	12	35
Hypertension with heart diseases	3	8	11
Other heart disease	39	31	70
Other circulatory disease	5	2	7
Influenza	2	—	2
Pneumonia	4	6	10
Homicide and operation of war	1	—	1
Bronchitis	9	5	14
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	1	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	1	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	3	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	31	35	66
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	5	7	12
Suicide	1	1	2
All Causes ...	206	163	369

Maternal Mortality.

There was no death during the year ascribed to maternal or puerperal causes. There was only one notification of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Infantile Deaths.

Death Rate—Workington	37.1
England and Wales	29.8
126 Great Towns	33.8
148 Smaller Towns	29.4
London	26.3
County of Cumberland	35.0

The number of deaths of children under one year of age in Workington in 1950 was 19 as compared to 25 in 1949. The Death Rate of 37.1 shows a decrease of 10.6 on the year 1949. Eleven of the deaths took place in the first month of life: of these, nine died because of premature birth or congenital defects. Bronchitis or Pneumonia and Gastritis accounted each for three deaths.

The table following shows Infantile Deaths by age and cause of death:—

INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY AGES AND
CAUSES OF DEATH, 1950.

Causes of Death	Age in Weeks				Age in Months					Total Deaths	
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	Under 1 Month	1—2	2—3	3—6	6—9		9—12
Premature Birth	6				6						6
Congenital Malformation Debility	2				2					1	3
Bronchitis and Pnuemonia				1	1			2			3
Gastro-enteritis				1	1	1		1			3
Other Causes	1				1	1		1	1		4
	9			2	11	2		4	1	1	19

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a)

The Public Health Committee and Staff are listed at the beginning of this report.

(b)

SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Service.

All specimens are dealt with by the Cumberland Laboratory including the examination of water and food samples. The Laboratory is under the direction of Dr. J. Steven Faulds.

The Ambulance, Nursing and Home Help and School and Child Welfare Services.

These are the responsibility of the Cumberland County Council. The School Clinics are held daily at 9 a.m. with a Medical Officer in attendance on Tuesdays during the School sessions; the Child Welfare Clinics are held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons with a Doctor in attendance on Wednesdays during which sessions Diphtheria Immunisation is carried out. These clinical sessions are held in the Park Lane Clinic.

The Clinical Tuberculosis Service is now the responsibility of the Regional Hospitals Board.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. James, is given as an appendix at the end of this report.

1.—*Housing.*

During 1950, forty-one houses were completed by the Local Authority. At the end of the year there were 134 in course of construction.

Nineteen houses were built by private enterprise.

2.—*Water Supply.*

The domestic demand for water does not vary greatly throughout the year as there is no seasonal influx of non-residents. The high daily consumption rate of approximately 46 gallons per head of population reflects the ease with which water is obtained from the main source at Crummock Lake and probably indicates that there is waste by distribution or by consumer, or by both. The Borough Surveyor has supplied the following information of the work in progress during the year:—

“During the year progress was maintained on the Winscales Reservoir (capacity 2 million gallons) Scheme. In addition there were approximately 80 yards of 3in. Main laid in the Town, together with 20 yards of 4in. Main linking Laverock Hall Estate, with the Westfield Estate Extension, and a start was made on the laying of Mains at Northside, approximately 100 yards being laid during the year.”

Samples taken throughout the year of the Main Crummock Supply and of the subsidiary Owsen Fell Supply (Harrington and Distington Joint Water Board) were uniformly satisfactory except for one sample taken from the tap of the Owsen Fell Water. This would presumably have resulted from a temporary breakdown in the Chlorination.

The result of a full bacteriological and chemical examination of water from the Crummock Supply was as follows:—

“Probable number of coli-aerogenes	
organisms in 100 ml.	Nil
Appearance in a 2ft. tube.	
Clear and colourless. p.H.—6.8.	
	<i>Pts. per 100,000</i>
Free and saline ammonia	0.001
Albuminous ammonia	0.006
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins.	
at 27 degrees C.	0.008

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at	
27 degrees C.	0.014
Total solids	3.2
Hardness—total	1.4
—permanent	0.8
—temporary	0.6
Chlorine present as chlorides	0.95
Heavy Metals—Copper, Iron, Lead	0.0
—Zinc	0.04
	approx.

Opinion :—
Chemically and bacteriologically a highly satisfactory water.”

Although the above sample is typical and shows a pure and wholesome water much reliance has to be placed on chlorination to eliminate potential danger from contamination by organisms. A new De-Incrustation and Chlorination Plant is at present in hand ; it is hoped that this will be completed and in working order with the least delay.

3.—*Drainage and Sewerage.*

Again I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following information :—

“The only sewers laid during the year were on Northside and Westfield Housing Estates. The mains laid on Northside are as follows :—

6in.	394 yards.
9in.	676 yards.
12in.	171 yards.

On the Westfield Estate Extension 464 yards of 9in. main have been laid.”

4.—*Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

Reference has already been made to the decision to pass over to the Health Department the functions of Refuse Collection and Disposal. The collection side will

require a great deal of study as regards routes, provision of standard bins and times of collection. As a general principle there seems to be no reason why a collection once per week should not be adequate to cover, both mechanically and hygienically, the major portions of the town.

The disposal side of this function will also be difficult in that the central area for disposal at the Cloffocks has reached the level almost of the highway; in the absence of an alternative site it will be necessary to raise the final level of this tip some six feet at the main gateway corner. The tip at Harrington does not present any problem at present except the provision of a fence and notices to prevent interference by members of the general public of the working face.

At the date of writing this report a start has been made towards Controlled Tipping and already this has resulted in greatly reduced nuisance by smell and by rats on the tips. The public could also help a great deal in this essential matter of disposing of the public's refuse by providing standard covered bins, by putting out clean paper separately for salvage, by washing out tins and bottles before putting them in the bins and by burning when possible scraps of unconsumable food and dirty paper.

SECTION D.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 416 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose | 1564 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | Nil |
| (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose | Nil |

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 4
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 412
- 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :
 - Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or other officers 381
- 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :
 - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs . 27
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By Owners 27
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By Owners 4
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil
 - (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 3

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 3 |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 : | |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground room in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. | Nil |
-

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year more than 1,600 inspections were made to premises where food is stored, prepared or sold.

Bye-laws were made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, with respect to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale or exposure for sale in the open-air of food intended for human consumption. These bye-laws came into operation in September, and copies were issued to all places affected by the new legislation.

Every endeavour has and will continue to be made to ensure a clean food supply.

Milk Supply.

There are 21 milk producers in the Borough. On five farms Tuberculin Tested Milk is produced, and on two farms Accredited Milk is produced.

During the year 25 samples of milk were submitted to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory for tubercle bacilli examination, and all were returned negative.

Ice Cream.

There are four manufacturers in the Borough and 48 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

Thirty samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination—23 being placed in Grade 1, 5 in Grade II and 2 in Grade IV.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

This nowadays mainly mild disease, differing only in its signs from acute tonsillitis in that there is a rash, was responsible for 68 notifications. Thirty-five cases were admitted to Hospital—a high number in relation to the shortage of beds. It is now generally agreed that this disease may well be nursed at home unless there are conditions of crowding in the house or other special factors operating.

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria occurred during the year, an eminently satisfactory fact in itself but one which should not be permitted to lead to complacency. The disease is still with us and unless the child population is sufficiently protected against it by immunisation continuously applied at the appropriate times in the life of each child we may find suddenly among us an epidemic. It is a sad reflection that this simple and proved procedure of Diphtheria Immunisation is in process of wiping itself out because of its own efficiency, and that the main stimulus towards having a child protected is the news that a case of Diphtheria has been notified in the vicinity.

There is a widespread belief held in Workington that there is no need to have a child immunised until it goes to school. In actual fact Diphtheria has always been

deadliest in those under school age. *The best time for immunisation against Diphtheria is just before the first birthday*—followed by a booster dose just before entry into school.

It is generally accepted that over 60 per cent. of the child population should be inoculated to ensure reasonable mass protection. This percentage for children under 5 years of age in Workington is only 37 per cent. The County Medical Officer has given permission for the publication of comparative figures in Immunisation. The table following shows that Workington takes the lowest place in West Cumberland:—

PERCENTAGE INOCULATION—WEST CUMBERLAND
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1950.

	Children under 5 years of age.	Children aged 5—14 years.
Workington Borough	37	82
Whitehaven Borough	53	100
Millom R.D.C.	68	100
Maryport U.D.C.	38	88
Ennerdale R.D.C.	60	95
Cockermouth R.D.C.	47	83
Cockermouth U.D.C.	62	89
West Cumberland	51	92

During the year a total of 404 children were given primary inoculations—221 under school age and 183 in the ages 5 to 14 years. The number of “booster” or reinforcement doses given was 218.

Inoculations against Diphtheria are carried out either at the Child Welfare Clinic on Wednesday afternoons, or at special sessions in school or by the family doctor by arrangement with him. Inoculations are free of charge to the parent.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

The diagnosis of Infantile Paralysis was confirmed in five notified cases. There were no deaths. Two cases were

of great severity, the Paralysis involving both arms and legs and the respiratory muscles. The three remaining cases were milder. It is too early yet to give the ultimate outlook in the severe cases. Both were transferred to the Ethel Hedley Hospital for further orthopaedic treatment after the acute phase was dealt with in the Isolation Block of the Cumberland Infirmary.

The Notifications of other Infectious Diseases (with no deaths therefrom) were as follows:—

Whooping Cough	27
Measles	81
Acute Pneumonia	31
Dysentery	12
Meningococcal Meningitis	3
Erysipelas	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Chickenpox	58

2.—*Food-Poisoning.*

Model bye-laws were adopted by the Corporation during the year. Arrangements were in hand by the end of the year for a lecture to Food Caterers and Shopkeepers on "Clean Food."

Five cases of food-poisoning were certified during the year.

The following table gives a summary of all cases notified during the year by age groups and showing numbers admitted to Hospital (where known). The figure of ten deaths from Pneumonia includes deaths from forms of the disease which are not notifiable:—

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1950.

Disease	Age Groups								Admitted to Hospital	Died
	Total Number of cases	Under 1 year								
		1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever	68	2	18	29	14	4	1	35	10 all forms	
Whooping Cough	27	4	11	6	6					
Anterior Poliomyelitis	5	2	2	1				5		
Measles	81	10	17	26	28					
Diphtheria										
		Under 5 years								
		5—14	15—44	45—64	65 and over					
Acute Pneumonia	13	2	1	4	1	5		Fig. not known		
Dysentery	12	4	5	3				1		
Erysipelas	5			2	2	1				
Meningococcal Infections	3	1	2					3		
Food Poisoning	5	1	2	2						
Puerperal pyrexia	1									
Chickenpox	58									

3.—*Cancer.*

The Registrar-General's tables show that there were 25 deaths in Males and 20 in Females from Cancer. The location of the disease was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cancer of Stomach	8	6	14
Cancer of Lung	4	—	4
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of Uterus	—	4	4
Cancer of all other sites	13	7	20
	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 45 <hr/>

The range of age at death was from 19 years to 83 years with an average age at death of 64 years in the case of Males and a range from 53 years to 82 years with an average age at death of 66 years among Females. The Mortality Rate from this disease per 1,000 population was 1.55.

4.—*Tuberculosis.*

There were forty-five notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis during the year of which 38 were pulmonary cases and 7 other forms of Tuberculosis. There were 12 deaths, all pulmonary cases: the Death Rate per 1,000 population was 0.41 as compared to a rate of 0.36 for England and Wales. The following table shows the number of new cases notified and the number of deaths during the year:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 ...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
10—15 ...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
15—20 ...	...	3	1	...	...	1	...	...
20—25 ...	2	4	...	1	...	1	...	...
25—35 ...	4	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
35—45 ...	5	1	...	...	1	2	...	...
45—55 ...	3	3	..	...	3	1	...	...
55—65 ...	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 & over.	1	...	...	...	2	..	...	...
Total	18	20	3	4	7	5	...	...

At the close of the year the total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register was 184, as follows:—

Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
69	50	119	29	36	65

TREATMENT IN SANATORIUM.

	In Sanatoria 1st. Jan. 1950.	Admitted.	Discharged	Died	In Sanatoria 31st Dec. 1950.
Pulmonary Cases—					
Adult Males ...	5	7	4	...	8
Adult Females ...	5	5	5	...	5
Children ...	...	1	1	...	...
Non-Pulmonary Cases					
Adult Males ...	...	...	...	..	...
Adult Females ...	...	...	...	...	...
Children ...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	10	13	10	...	13

APPENDIX.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

*To J. L. Hunter, Esq., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,**Medical Officer of Health.*

Sir,

I herewith submit the following statement showing the number and nature of inspections, etc., during the year 1950, also the number of notices served and various items dealt with :—

Total number of inspections	...	...	...	8587
Bakehouses	...	...	...	172
Caravans	...	...	...	60
Cinemas, Theatres, Clubs, Hotels	...	...	...	143
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	1139
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	94
Drainage inspections	...	...	...	194
Dwellinghouses—				
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	1912
Housing Acts	...	...	...	477
Re-inspections	...	...	...	1546
Disinfections	...	...	...	92
Disinfestations	...	...	...	149
Factories	...	...	...	515
Food Shops	...	...	...	274
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	428
Ice Cream	...	...	...	87
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	123
Markets, Stalls, Carts	...	...	...	114
Offensive Trades, etc.—				
Fish Frying	...	...	...	273
Tripe Boiling	...	...	...	14
Tanning	...	...	...	9
Rag and Bone Merchants	...	...	...	27
Knacker Yard	...	...	...	21

Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	287
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	393
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	44

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	416
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	31

At the end of the year 95 Informal Notices remained to be dealt with.

The attention of the Borough Surveyor was called to the following defects:—

Dangerous premises	...	...	...	...	2
Choked sewers or street gullies	...	...	...	...	9
Waste or poor pressure of water, defective stop taps, etc.	...	...	...	...	9
Removal of refuse	...	...	...	...	13
Repairs to Corporation property	...	...	...	...	8

During the year it has been extremely difficult getting repairs carried out. Enforced neglect of property during the war and early post-war years, together with the present shortage of materials, controlled rents, soaring building costs, etc., are all factors that are making it very difficult for property owners to bear the heavy costs in overtaking maintenance arrears. In fact in many cases great pressure has had to be exerted to get owners to carry out urgent and essential repairs.

The continued shortage of new houses and the restriction on Local Authorities to reduce to a minimum the making of demolition orders, has resulted in many obsolete houses being given an artificial lease of life. If this progresses it will result in the number of houses qualifying for demolition greatly exceeding the rate new houses can be provided.

SUMMARY OF WORKS EXECUTED.

DRAINAGE : —

Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	17
Drains cleansed from obstruction	...	...	...	...	104
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	5
Gullies renewed	...	...	...	...	56
Drains connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilation pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	2

SANITARY CONVENIENCES : —

Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	44
W.C. basins renewed	...	...	...	...	32
New traps fixed	...	...	...	...	6
Cone joints repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Additional W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	21
Seats repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	11
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	9
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	12
Floors renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Soilpipes renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Light and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	4
Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	20
Cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	7
Flushpipe renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	12

YARD AND OUTBUILDINGS : —

Wash-houses repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	3
Yard surfaces relaid	...	...	...	...	2
Coalhouses repaired	...	...	...	...	5

EXTERIOR OF HOUSES : —

Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	15
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	152
Spoutings cleansed or renewed	...	...	...	...	57
Pointing and rendering	...	...	...	...	11

INTERIOR OF HOUSES :—

Chimney flue repaired	...	...	...	11
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	42
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	35
Fireplaces or ovens repaired	...	...	...	5
Doors repaired	...	...	...	4
Wallplaster renewed	...	...	...	88
Windows renewed or repaired	...	...	...	36
Sashcords provided	...	...	...	26
Sinks provided	...	...	...	16
Wastepipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	5
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	1
Waterpipes renewed	...	...	...	20
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	33
Dirty premises cleansed	...	...	...	3
Sewage gaining access to cellar abated	...	...	...	1
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	2

MISCELLANEOUS :—

Animals removed	...	...	...	3
Poultry removed	...	...	...	2
Caravans removed	...	...	...	11

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Owing to the presence of vermin, 140 houses were disinfested by this Department. The number of Council houses found infested by bugs was 3, the other houses 10.

Seven houses were treated for fleas, 29 for cockroaches, 3 for silverfish, 2 for earwigs and 86 for ants.

All fluids and powders used for disinfestation work have D.D.T. and Pyrethum incorporated, for ant extermination 0.25 per cent. Thallium Sulphate is included.

RATS AND MICE.

No serious infestation occurred during the year. Two hundred and eighty-seven visits were made to premises regarding complaints of rats and mice, and all proved of a minor character.

In addition to traps, prebaited used are sausage rusk and bread mash, and poisons used are zinc phosphide and red squill.

The sewers in the Borough were treated for rats twice during the year, and with the exception of two small areas, the system can be regarded rat free.

The refuse tips have received regular weekly visits. At the Cloffocks Tip minor infestations were dealt with. At Harrington Tip extermination was hampered owing to the presence of rats on the railway embankment. Co-operation with rodent operators of the Railway has shown good results. The introduction of controlled tipping, covering and narrowing of tipping faces will soon eliminate breeding areas.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year 44 smoke observations, each of 30 minute duration, were taken. Three industrial firms were warned regarding smoke nuisances. At one factory alterations were carried out including the installation of a mechanical stoker, eliminating a serious smoke nuisance that has prevailed for many years.

In the absence of bye-laws regulating smoke nuisances, the standard set in the Borough is that "black smoke" shall not be emitted for more than two minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes. During observations different grades of smoke are noted, especially when it is of such a density that light cannot penetrate through and when the top of the chimney is not properly distinguishable from the smoke.

General legislation governing smoke nuisances is contained in the Public Health Act 1936, but dwelling-houses, mines and certain metallurgical processes are exempt from the provisions of the Act. The dust nuisance from one large industrial concern (one of the exempted processes) continued during 1950, but complaints from householders were not so prevalent due to the wet year. Periodical tests were carried out by placing petri dishes at various

distances from the plant, and heavy deposits were recorded half-a-mile away. Following a letter of complaint from the Town Clerk the Company replied in December, 1950, that a new plant would be installed and working about the end of April, 1951.

SHOPS ACT.

The Shops Act, 1950, became operative on the 1st October and consolidates the Shops Act, 1912 to 1938, and certain other enactments relating to shops. The Act deals with closing hours, conditions of employment, Sunday trading, health and comfort of shop workers, employment of young persons, etc.

A circular letter dealing with the chief provisions of the Act was delivered to every shopkeeper within the Borough.

During the year 11 shopkeepers were warned for selling goods after permitted hours.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number in register	...	...	...	...	233
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	687
Notices served	...	...	...	...	63
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	Nil
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	2
Classification of defects:—					
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	14
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
Unreasonable temperature	...	...	...	...	1
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	...	...	3
Sanitary Conveniences:—					
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	3
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	29
Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	6
Other offences against the Act	...	...	...	...	6
Fire escape certificates issued	...	...	...	...	5

The following is a list of Classified Trades carried on in the Borough:—

Tanning	...	...	...	...	...	1
Aerated Waters	...	...	...	...	...	3
Paint Making, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5
Enamelling	...	...	...	...	...	1
Corn Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	2
Printing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rayon Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gas Undertaking	...	...	...	...	...	2
Electrical Undertaking	...	...	...	...	...	1
Laundry	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dyers and Cleaners	...	...	...	...	...	3
Firelighters	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brewery	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quarrying	...	...	...	...	...	1
Weaving	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	4
General Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Building Trades	...	...	...	...	...	20
Wood Cutting and Working	...	...	...	...	...	31
Leather Working, Shoe Repairing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	18
Tailoring, Cutting, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	16
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	34
Food Preserving Premises	...	...	...	...	...	31
Light Engineering—including Motor Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	32
Heavy Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	9
						<hr/> 233 <hr/>

INSPECTION OF PREMISES.

All premises where food is prepared or sold have been regularly inspected. The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption:—

Tinned and Bottled Goods:—

Pork (29 tins).	Tongue (8 tins).
Beef (64 tins).	Geese (2 tins).
Veal (9 tins).	Chocolate Spread (19 tins).
Ham (29 tins).	Sandwich Spread (24 bottles).
Luncheon Meat (126 tins).	Cherries (3 tins).
Whalemeat (1 tin).	Prunes (1 tin).

Salmon (23 tins).
 Crawfish (6 tins).
 Prawns (3 tins).
 Snoek (1 tin).
 Pilchards (3 tins).
 Herring (1 tin).
 Crab (3 tins).
 Sardines (1 tin).
 Tunny Fish (3 tins).
 Mackerel (1 tin).
 Bristling (202 tins).
 Peas (201 tins).
 Beans (90 tins).
 Rhubarb (2 tins).
 Dates (58 tins).
 Soup (177 tins).
 Salad Cream (17 bottles).
 Coffee (1 tin).

Peaches (15 tins).
 Apples (4 tins).
 Pears (12 tins).
 Plums (118 tins).
 Grapes (12 tins).
 Apricots (22 tins).
 Strawberries (8 tins).
 Gooseberries (4 tins).
 Jam (287 tins).
 Milk (597 tins).
 Tomatoes (31 tins).
 Beetroot (37 tins).
 Carrots (21 tins).
 Vegetables (7 tins).
 Onions (8 bottles).
 Tomato Ketchup (10 bottles).
 Mustard (7 tins).
 Honey (1 tin).

Other Foods :—

Bacon (25lbs.).
 Chickens (13 stones).
 Liver (3lbs.).
 Sausage (6lbs.).
 Tripe (5 stones).
 Meat Pies (8lbs.).
 Rabbits (1½ stones).
 Cod (18 stones).
 Kippers (1½ stones).
 Halibut (2½ stones).
 Skate (1 stone).

Cheese (7 stones).
 Sweets (19¼lbs.).
 Grapes (5½ stones).
 Jam (1½ stones).
 Jelly (2lbs.).
 Ice Cream (31½ stones).
 Choc Ices (60lbs.).
 Yeast (1½ stones).
 Cereals (2 stones).
 Blanc Mange (6½lbs.).
 Almond Substitute (6¾lbs.).

The approximate weight of the foodstuffs condemned was 4½ tons.

In all cases Certificates were issued under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to all respective vendors, and as far as possible Ministry of Food Circular M.F. 3/48 has been followed regarding salvage of unsound foods.

(Signed) RICHARD JAMES,
 Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Town Hall,
 Workington,
 27th July, 1951.

